

Equestrian

There are 16 member bodies of the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) and a wide number of ways you can get involved with horses.

Showjumping, eventing and dressage have brought many medal successes for Team GB but there are other less known sports such as carriage driving, vaulting (gymnastics on horseback), endurance riding, horseball, polocrosse, western riding (reining) and mounted games that enjoy high levels of success both locally and internationally.

All these sports start with the opportunities that exist at grass roots levels with British Horse Society, Association of British Riding Schools and Pony Club centres and branches, many offering disabled provision.

Every equestrian activity is entirely dependant on volunteer support, not least the largest volunteer based organisation which deploys more than 18,000 volunteers annually, the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA).

“I didn’t know what to expect when I began, as I am not a particularly ‘horsey’ person, however everyone was really kind, and I have had a lot of fun and a very good experience.”

Sophie

What’s in it for you?

Equestrian sports are not always easy to get involved with, unless you know someone who rides. Offering to volunteer will give you the opportunity to meet new people, develop confidence around horses, and learn new leadership and team skills.

Riding schools and centres and weekly groups

If you fancy getting your hands dirty, there are opportunities to help out at local riding schools. But these centres also need assistance with their admin and IT, and weekly groups will need people to take on their club roles such as treasurer, PR, secretary, first aid and child protection officer, web master and to offer help with fundraising.

Riding for the Disabled is particularly interested in attracting young people to all their volunteer roles, including assisting their disabled children and older clients with their riding sessions.

Coaches

The British Equestrian Federation has just won Sports Coach UK's NGB of the Year award in recognition for the work that has been done in terms of UKCC, and some of our member bodies have only volunteer coaches. All our organisations have opportunities for young people to train as assistant and lead coaches.

Event volunteers and officials

There are opportunities to train in volunteer and officiating roles for the many events held around the country, such as fence judging, writing for judges, collecting ring stewarding, scoring, time keeping, announcing, car and lorry parking, or, if you fancy it, keeping everyone fed and watered.

For more information visit bef.co.uk/volunteering



Some organisations have their own officiating and volunteer courses and the BEF is looking to bring all these schemes into a federation wide Young Leaders and Volunteering scheme. We are also in the process of recruiting 16 – 25 year olds for the development of a Youth Action Group.